

## Routes to tour in Germany

# The Harz and Heath Route



German roads will get you there — to areas at times so attractive that one route leads to the next, from the Harz mountains to the Lüneburg Heath, say. Maybe you should take a look at both. The Harz, northernmost part of the Mittelgebirge range, is holiday country all the year round. In summer for hikers, in winter for skiers in their tens of thousands. Tour from the hill resorts of Osterode, Clausthal-Zellerfeld or Bad Harzburg or from the 1,000-

year-old town of Goslar. The Heath extends from Celle, with its town centre of half-timbered houses unscathed by the war and the oldest theatre in Germany, to Lüneburg, also 1,000 years old. It boasts wide expanses of flat countryside, purple heather and herds of local curly-horned sheep.

Visit Germany and let the Harz and Heath Route be your guide.



- 1 Brunswick
- 2 An old Lüneburg Heath farmhouse
- 3 The Harz
- 4 Göttingen

DZT DEUTSCHE ZENTRALE  
FÜR TOURISMUS EV  
Beethovenstraße 69, D-6000 Frankfurt/M.



# The German Tribune

Hamburg, 6 September 1987  
Twenty-sixth year - No. 1289 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C  
ISSN 0016-8858

## Conditions laid down for axing Bonn's Pershings

### DER TAGESSPIEGEL

Chancellor Kohl has decided that the German Pershing 1 missiles will be scrapped if the Americans and Russians phase out their medium-range missiles world-wide.

His decision, taken without discussing it with the Cabinet, is supported by some members of his own CDU party, by the Free Democrats and Social Democrats and, perhaps also by the Greens.

It is a decision that should eliminate a disarmament talks handicap while neither the Russians nor the Americans are directly responsible for it, will also strengthen Chancellor Kohl's external position but not relations with the Bavarian CSU wing of his party.

Chancellor Kohl's statement was to the point. The offer depends on the superpowers reaching agreement: on a treaty ratification; and on observance of it.

The conditions are appropriate because the original superpower talks

take Bonn's worries seriously and eliminate this threat.

That was appropriate. No-one with any experience or knowledge of the facts could possibly expect to swap 72 Pershings for several hundred Scuds, especially as they differ as weapon systems.

The Chancellor has put himself in the position of at least being able to call, with a high public profile, on the East to show some goodwill. His decision also comes as a blow for freedom.

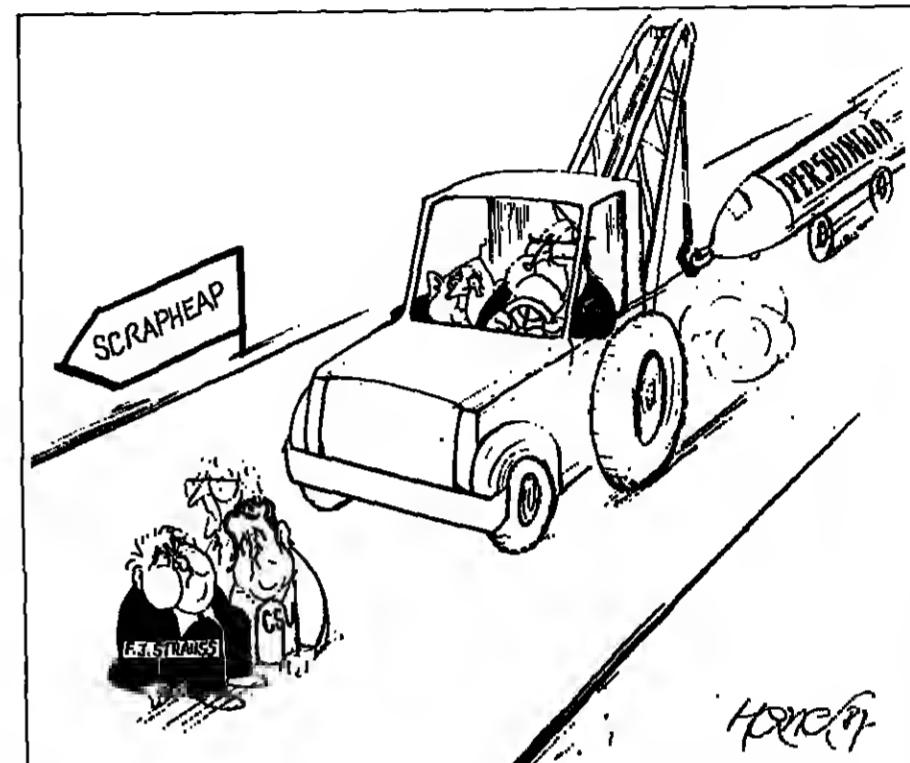
It seemed that the Pershing issue kept on coming back into the German court, lobbed by the Russians, allowed by the Americans to cross the net, caught a glancing blow by Christian Democrats, who ineptly failed to do more than speed it on its way, while the Free Democrats skipped round it, lamenting the points it seemed likely to score.

Foreign Minister Genscher ran alongside it, looking around with growing impatience for the team captain, but he — the Chancellor — was on holiday.

An irritated public followed the strange proceedings from the grandstand. Few spectators were jubilant at Germany's discomfiture; many were alarmed. And when the captain finally arrived on the scene he took his time as though there was no risk whatever.

On his first working day after returning from his summer holiday the Chancellor quietly heard the Foreign Minister Genscher's advice to dispense in some way with Pershing modernisation. He also had nothing to say on learning that the Opposition SPD had insisted on holding a special session of the Bundestag at which he was to be asked what he had to say for himself.

Assuming he might not have arrived at a decision during his summer holiday, he then knew he had to do something.



"Just another Beveren sit in" (Cartoon: Walter Hancl, Bamberg, *Die Allgemeine*)

were not subject to negotiation in Geneva.

At the same time as Chancellor Kohl held his press conference, CSU general secretary Gerald Tandler said the missiles must not be "sacrificed on the altar of Soviet goodwill" even if the SPD and the FDP might urge the government to do so.

The Chancellor's lone but clearly correct decision is backed by a strange coalition of some Christian Democrats plus the Free Democrats and Social Democrats and, possibly, the Greens.

This majority is bound to strengthen the Chancellor's external position. It will also be to his benefit toward Germans East and West (including East Germany's Erich Honecker).

But how it will affect his relations with his own party, let alone with the Bavarian CSU, is another matter entirely.

(*Der Tagesspiegel*, Berlin, 27 August 1987)

## No clear signals for Lebanon hostages

not all they want. They insist on fulfilment of their original demand.

But Bonn can hardly afford to deport Hamadei, especially with the United States in mind. A trade-in would do Bonn immense damage in Washington.

The US government made more than one final demand for Hamadei to be handed over to the American authorities. Bonn refused, saying the likely hijacker would not be exchanged in an underhand deal with Shi'ite fanatics tried and sentenced in Germany in accordance with the full rigour of the law.

So the Hamadei case remains the bone of contention, and the kidnappers' impasse may well only just have come to light but could easily have been made in July, shortly after the Kohl Cabinet decided not to extradite Hamadei to the United States.

So it is hard to see what grounds Bonn officials can have for their guarded optimism.

Hopes of Iran or Syria stepping up their efforts to influence the fundamentalist kidnappers are somewhat vague. US journalist Charles Glass may surprisingly have been freed, but prompt rumours of greater flexibility in Tehran and Damascus cannot be verified.

Besides, it is hard to say how far their role runs in the involved underground of the Lebanese guerrilla scene. Bonn would definitely do well to retain a clear and sober sense of reality.

(*Nürnberger Nachrichten*, 26 August 1987)

## ■ WORLD AFFAIRS

## Defence Minister Wörner nominated as Nato's next secretary-general

Bonn Defence Minister Manfred Wörner has been nominated to be the next secretary-general of Nato in succession to Lord Carrington, who is not seeking an extended term. A former Norwegian Prime Minister, Kaare Willoch, has also been mentioned. Other names being mentioned are Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans and Italy's Foreign Minister, Giulio Andreotti.

Lord Carrington, whose term as Nato secretary-general expires next year, has indicated that he will not stand again and the German Defence Minister, Manfred Wörner, CDU, has been nominated.

But Norway's Social Democratic Prime Minister, Gro Harlem Brundtland, was first to nominate a candidate. Last month, she nominated her Conservative predecessor, Kaare Willoch, a pre-emptive move that put Herr Wörner onto the defensive.

Norway, a smaller Nato country, feels relegated to a back-seat role by the withdrawal of a Canadian brigade and the possible transfer of German naval units to the Mediterranean.

In nominating Willoch, the Norwegian government has skillfully upstaged Bonn, where Herr Wörner and Chancellor Kohl preferred, in noble self-restraint, not to outline the German position in detail until this autumn.

Bonn is not giving up. Government spokesman Norbert Schäfer said that the Federal government would be discussing the Nato appointment after the summer recess in the usual confidential manner with its allies.

Mr Willoch is a staunch Nato supporter and advocate of missile modernisation and held in high esteem by the military.

At Nato headquarters in Brussels there are no straight fights between candidates. Views are sounded and contacts made behind closed doors to reach agreement on a candidate whose name is then referred to the defence planning committee for approval.

Herr Wörner does not just have a personal interest in taking over from Lord Carrington as secretary-general. Germany can argue that a German has yet to head Nato and that it is now its turn. Bonn wants to gain special influence in the North Atlantic pact.

In view of the double zero solution, the Germans feel out on a limb on nuclear strategy and see a need to devise a new European strategy paying greater heed to German interests than has been apparent in the superpowers' missile talks.

The Nato secretary-general may wield no administrative power, but the political role he plays has a certain significance in the situation.

Herr Wörner also feels he is preferred in the United States, which is clearly important, as America is the leading Nato power. A point that tells against him is that a fellow-German, General Wolfgang Altenburg, currently heads Nato's military committee.

That has only occurred on one previous occasion when, during the long incumbency of Joseph Luns, 1971-84, fellow-Dutchman General Cornelis de Jager headed the military committee.

And that, arguably, is an inappropriate comparison because Holland is a smaller Nato country.

Now Norway has staked its claim, the outlook for Herr Wörner is no longer felt to be as good as it was. Bonn feels one

### STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

possibility is that neither he nor Mr Willoch will make the running and that agreement may be reached on a "third party."

Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans is one man whose name is mentioned in this context. Another, if only as a marginal possibility, is Italy's Foreign Minister, Giulio Andreotti.

While the Wörner issue only concerns the CDU, nominating a successor to the late Alois Pfeiffer, who was European Commissioner responsible for economics and employment, is a trump in the game of condition poker.

Even before Herr Pfeiffer, a former general secretary of the horticultural, farming and forestry workers' union, was buried, the CSU reminded Chancellor Kohl of an undertaking he was said to have given in 1984 to give the next available European Community appointment to a CSU nominee.

The Christian Democrats' Bavarian sister-party has yet to be represented by a commissioner in Brussels and misses no opportunity of criticising CDU commissioner Karl-Heinz Narjes. The CSU suggested Peter Schmidhuber, Bavarian Minister of State for Federal Affairs in Bonn, as a successor to Herr Pfeiffer at the European Commission in Brussels.

At a time when he must be keen to see

CSU leader Franz Josef Strauss make concessions in the CDU/CSU strategy debate he is unlikely to give the go-ahead until the CSU has shown signs of goodwill.

FDP leader Martin Bangemann has

been less tight-lipped. In an interview he conceded that the CSU had a point inasmuch as it was "the only one of the classic parties" never to have supplied a European Community commissioner.

Despite protests to the contrary, Free Democrats feel sure their leader plans to return to Brussels himself in 1989 as a European commissioner and successor to Jacques Delors, the French president of the European Commission.

He would do this ambition no harm whatever by being on good terms with CSU.

The world can expect an extension of the hot spot that is South Africa.

The Bonn government knows its special responsibility for the former German colony of South-West Africa and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has owned up to this responsibility in fulguring a protest against the arrests.

It was made not only on behalf of the roughly 22,000 Namibians of German extraction.

Reforms may make everyday life under South African rule more bearable, but "internal" politics prevents internationally recognised independence, which alone might lead to an end to the murderous bush warfare between Swaziland and South Africa.

The "internal" parties are undeniably men of goodwill, but they are kept on a tight rein by the pragmatists in Pretoria.

Nothing goes in Windhoek without the blessing of the South African authorities.

True, the financial burden of the long years of fighting in an economically dependent territory weighs heavily on a South Africa in the throes of an economic recession of its own.

But a truly independent Namibia would weigh much more heavily on South Africa because it would be almost certain to be hostile toward Pretoria.

The key words were tolerance, understanding and an ability to accept lifestyles and political views unacceptable to many staunch conservatives.

Diepgen referred to all facets of a pluralistic society which foster individualism and greater self-reliance vis-à-vis the state and society's major institutions.

Although he did not discard fundamental conservative principles his message was clear: government institutions as well as the police and the courts should not succumb to the illusion that they can force certain views upon members of a large section of society which has different ideas about how to live their lives.

It is fair to assume that the current conflict with the CSU is not just the result of a tactical manoeuvre to enlist the support of young, middle-aged and in particular female voters.

Diepgen was even more specific about his support for a "modern" and thoughtful form of liberalism.

Geissler and those who back his strategy feel that any losses in a significant



Is it time for a German? ... Manfred Wörner. (Photo: Stephan Simon)

been less tight-lipped. In an interview he conceded that the CSU had a point inasmuch as it was "the only one of the classic parties" never to have supplied a European Community commissioner.

Economic Affairs Minister Bangemann is keen to see the coalition parties resolve their differences in time for the 13 September state assembly elections in Schleswig-Holstein and Bremen. He is also motivated by sheer self-interest.

Two issues of contention relate broadly to attempts within sections of both the CDU and CSU to win favour in different parts of the electorate.

In the CDU, the battle is for votes in the middle ground; in Bavaria it is to head off challenges from the right.

CDU decisions in this field, however, bear the distinct mark of Geissler.

This was apparent in Kohl's missile decision and in his welcoming response to Erich Honecker's visit.

The Chancellor's statements on Deutschlandpolitik and Ostpolitik may find that the motto "bad publicity is better than no publicity at all" is the more successful strategy.

The worst thing that can happen, however, is a lack of ideas combined with unsuccessful actionism.

During the recess the Greens demonstrated how soon this can manoeuvre a party out of the public eye. Although hardly any other party issued as many statements on so many topics there was almost zero response from them.

The party's statements on Chancellor Kohl's Pershing proposal gave an idea

of the hard times ahead for the image promoters of the Greens.

One statement said that Kohl's proposal was necessary but half-hearted; a statement issued only one hour later, said the proposal was totally unacceptable.

So will the FDP again emerge from the summer skirmishes as the real winner?

Both party chairman Martin Bangemann and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher have best exploited the situation during recent weeks.

Bangemann improved his image without acting like a bull in a china shop. Genscher kept a tight rein on the missile discussion.

The change of leadership has paid off, even though it is still not clear whether Bangemann intends moving to the European Community headquarters in Brussels one day or staying in Bonn.

This keeps potential successors happy and ensures their support.

The party managed the difficult task of forming a coalition with the SPD in Hamburg almost as if it were a matter of course.

The FDP, therefore, stands united in the verge of its next party conference in Kiel.

The summer theatre produced joys and sorrows for all. The positions of the two political camps are more or less evenly balanced.

On the one hand, a shaken CDU/CSU in Bonn is still stable — thanks to the FDP and the Chancellor's "renaissance" — coalition; on the other, a recuperated SPD and a Greens party which has been pushed into the background.

New mountains have to be moved, e.g. the tax and pensions reforms.

Will the coalition be able to knock down to work and toe the line following the damaging summer squabbling?

Numerous colourful swallows made a summer in Bonn, but a staunch homeowner need not necessarily make a productive autumn.

Thomas Mayer

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 28 August 1987)

represent a challenge to the SPD, FDP and the more thoughtful in the Greens party, but — in a completely different way — to the CSU.

The recent interview with Bonn Family Minister Rita Süssmuth in the *Süddeutsche Zeitung* was strongly criticised by the CSU.

Frau Süssmuth openly complained that the CSU was demonstrating a dangerous leaning towards increasingly tough regulations and recourse to the action of a "strong government" in its campaign against AIDS.

She referred to a dispute over principles, which also relates to abortion laws, demonstration laws, and laws dealing with alleged and actual enemies of the constitution employed in the public service sector.

The problems must be openly discussed; Frau Süssmuth, her supporters and Franz Josef Strauss all agree on this.

The conflict is rooted in extremely different ideas on the relationship between the state and its people. The dispute cannot be settled in Kohl style by simply disregarding it.

Geissler and many other CDU politicians are already thinking in terms of the post-Kohl era. This does not mean that they are out to topple the Chancellor.

However, they have to develop policies which appeal to a wide variety of voters.

The support of new voters cannot be gained by simply calling for greater harmony or avoiding frank discussions.

Peter Apsacher

(Nürsberger Nachrichten, 27 August 1987)

### The German Tribune

Friedrich Rehbecks Verlag GmbH, 3-4 Herrenhäuserstrasse, D-3000 Hamburg 78, Tel.: 22 85 1, Telex: 20 14735  
Editor-in-chief: Otto Heinz, Editor: Alexander Anthony  
English language sub-editor: Birgit Baurau, Design: Georgina Picone.

Advertising rates Vol. 15  
Annual subscription DM 45  
Printed by C.W. Heinecke-Druck, Hameln  
Distributed in the USA by: MABE MAILINGS, Inc., 200 West 24th Street, New York, N.Y. 10011  
Articles in THE GERMAN TRIBUNE are translated from the original text and published by agreement with newspapers in the Federal Republic of Germany.

In all correspondence please quote your subscription number which appears on the wrapper, between asterisks, above your address.

He was not far from criticising the

state can't force homogeneity on society, warns Berlin's Mayor

represent a challenge to the SPD, FDP and the more thoughtful in the Greens party, but — in a completely different way — to the CSU.

The world can expect an extension of the hot spot that is South Africa.

The Bonn government knows its special responsibility for the former German colony of South-West Africa and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has owned up to this responsibility in fulguring a protest against the arrests.

It was made not only on behalf of the roughly 22,000 Namibians of German extraction.

Reforms may make everyday life under South African rule more bearable, but "internal" politics prevents internationally recognised independence, which alone might lead to an end to the murderous bush warfare between Swaziland and South Africa.

The "internal" parties are undeniably men of goodwill, but they are kept on a tight rein by the pragmatists in Pretoria.

Nothing goes in Windhoek without the blessing of the South African authorities.

True, the financial burden of the long years of fighting in an economically dependent territory weighs heavily on a South Africa in the throes of an economic recession of its own.

But a truly independent Namibia would weigh much more heavily on South Africa because it would be almost certain to be hostile toward Pretoria.

The key words were tolerance, understanding and an ability to accept lifestyles and political views unacceptable to many staunch conservatives.

Diepgen referred to all facets of a pluralistic society which foster individualism and greater self-reliance vis-à-vis the state and society's major institutions.

Although he did not discard fundamental conservative principles his message was clear: government institutions as well as the police and the courts should not succumb to the illusion that they can force certain views upon members of a large section of society which has different ideas about how to live their lives.

It is fair to assume that the current conflict with the CSU is not just the result of a tactical manoeuvre to enlist the support of young, middle-aged and in particular female voters.

Diepgen was even more specific about his support for a "modern" and thoughtful form of liberalism.

Geissler and those who back his strategy feel that any losses in a significant

represent a challenge to the SPD, FDP and the more thoughtful in the Greens party, but — in a completely different way — to the CSU.

The world can expect an extension of the hot spot that is South Africa.

The Bonn government knows its special responsibility for the former German colony of South-West Africa and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has owned up to this responsibility in fulguring a protest against the arrests.

It was made not only on behalf of the roughly 22,000 Namibians of German extraction.

Reforms may make everyday life under South African rule more bearable, but "internal" politics prevents internationally recognised independence, which alone might lead to an end to the murderous bush warfare between Swaziland and South Africa.

The "internal" parties are undeniably men of goodwill, but they are kept on a tight rein by the pragmatists in Pretoria.

Nothing goes in Windhoek without the blessing of the South African authorities.

True, the financial burden of the long years of fighting in an economically dependent territory weighs heavily on a South Africa in the throes of an economic recession of its own.

But a truly independent Namibia would weigh much more heavily on South Africa because it would be almost certain to be hostile toward Pretoria.

The key words were tolerance, understanding and an ability to accept lifestyles and political views unacceptable to many staunch conservatives.

Diepgen referred to all facets of a pluralistic society which foster individualism and greater self-reliance vis-à-vis the state and society's major institutions.

Although he did not discard fundamental conservative principles his message was clear: government institutions as well as the police and the courts should not succumb to the illusion that they can force certain views upon members of a large section of society which has different ideas about how to live their lives.

It is fair to assume that the current conflict with the CSU is not just the result of a tactical manoeuvre to enlist the support of young, middle-aged and in particular female voters.

Diepgen was even more specific about his support for a "modern" and thoughtful form of liberalism.

Geissler and those who back his strategy feel that any losses in a significant

represent a challenge to the SPD, FDP and the more thoughtful in the Greens party, but — in a completely different way — to the CSU.

The world can expect an extension of the hot spot that is South Africa.

The Bonn government knows its special responsibility for the former German colony of South-West Africa and Foreign

## ■ RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

## New testament research becomes a more liberal, international affair

Research into the New Testament has become more liberal over the years. The work of Catholics and those of various strands of Protestantism are often quoted side-by-side without discrimination. The subject has acquired a more international flavour, with international congresses, the use of guest lectures and the publication of works internationally. More German theological books are translated than ever before, although many American publishers complain about their verbosity. Last month 400 theologians from all confessions met in Göttingen to talk about New Testament research. Karl-Alfred Odil reports for the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.

The congress, organised by the New Testament society which has the Latin name of Studiorum Novi Testamenti Societas, was chaired by Bishop Eduard Lohse, of Hannover, a former rector of Göttingen University.

The New Testament society was established after the war and is the only international association of professors of this discipline. It meets once a year, with each involved country taking turn as host.

The congress last took place in West Germany 10 years ago. Göttingen was chosen to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Georg-August University in the city.

An overall view of New Testament

**Frankfurter Allgemeine**

research emerged during the conference and several contentious matters were discussed.

Themes extended from the text of the New Testament, its historical, cultural and social environment, its theological significance and questions such as how to make the contents comprehensible to people today.

More contentious issues were discussed in various seminars where researchers related their own findings.

Many seminars discussed the relationship of belief, thought and the written word to the Jews of the time, the first generation of Christians and the social environment of early Christianity.

The Romans did not at first regard Christians as an independent religious congregation but as a special group within the Jewish religion.

This meant that Christians came under the protection regulations for approved religions, religion leica.

Christians themselves only gradually drew apart from Judaism, and there was tension in this.

They found their expression in the New Testament which eventually led to a division between the two congregations.

### Politics at first hand

Detailed and objective information is what you need if you are to hold your own on politics and world affairs: facts on which to base your own political viewpoint.

*Aussenpolitik*, the quarterly foreign affairs review, gives you facts at first hand for an annual DM50 plus p&p.

INTERPRESS GmbH,  
Hoteleinsacher Kamp 14, D-2000 Hamburg 76,  
Federal Republic of Germany.  
Tel. (040) 2 29 06 08

Order form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_

Profession \_\_\_\_\_

**AUSSEN  
POLITIK**

German  
Foreign Affairs  
Review

Editorial  
advisory board:

Hans Apel

Heinrich Bechtold

Harald von Borch

Kurt Georg Kleinsinger

Klaus Ritter

Walter Scheel

Helmut Schmidt

Richard von Weizsäcker

Gerhard Wetting

## Joseph Cardinal Höffner steps down

Cardinal Joseph Höffner has resigned as chairman of the most senior Catholic church body in Germany, the German Bishops' Conference. He is being treated for a brain tumor.

He is a man of firm conviction who, however, is always willing to listen to others.

He always gets quickly to the point. He knows that a person's conscience, "final authority" when it comes to belief.

The 80-year-old Archbishop of Cologne was born in Hohlrathen/Westphalia and was ordained in Rome in 1932.

Conscience has always been a key word to Cardinal Höffner. In countless sermons, speeches and statements he has tried to outline the fundamental interrelationships which concern the Christians of today.

He only rarely deals with detailed questions but instead concentrates on general issues such as the protection of life, man and technology, peace and relations between the German states.

He does not restrict himself to ecclesiastical aspects, but touches on their effects on society as a whole, politics or economics.

He has not always been able to choose these topics himself, but his ability to do so is undisputed.

Höffner has a long list of academic qualifications. He was professor for Christian social matters and holder of doctor titles.

But the nucleus of the New Testament is theology and its spirituality, literature, politics or psychology.

There are a number of students who have sought to give a Marxist interpretation of the New Testament but this has found little academic approval.

Many seminars in Göttingen dealt with Biblical texts, among others with the miracles in St Matthew's Gospel, with the parable of the sower, of the growth of seed and of the mustard seed in St Mark's Gospel, with the visit of Nicodemus to Jesus by night in St John's Gospel and with the Revelation of St John.

One theme for discussion was the ethos of St Paul's theology, the demand for justice or caritas (justice and love).

Another theme was the relationship that exists in St Paul's letters between Christ's doctrine and the relationship to the earthly Jesus.

The question of the establishment of an authentic wording of the Bible and the general development of a stable canon of Biblical scripture were also discussed.

The New Testament was once not the source for Christianity, as it is today. The Old Testament was. It took many centuries before the New Testament became established in all churches.

One seminar in Göttingen was concerned with prayer, divine service and spirituality in the New Testament, with the aid of the Letter to the Hebrews in which Paul's doctrine of justification by faith is expounded. These are themes that are increasingly examined in churches.

Anyone looking at his workload cannot help but admire his perseverance: his trips to Central America and the Philippines in December last year were so strenuous that many younger people would have found it difficult to stay the pace.

Höffner knows how much he can take on. His decision to resign as chairman of the Bishops' Conference was clearly carefully considered. It is a bitter loss for the Catholic church in Germany.

The Bible and its readers and the

Continued on page 5

Martin Thull  
(Allgemeine Zeitung Mainz, 15 August 1987)

## ■ PERSPECTIVE

## Honecker visit raises some policy questions

**Stuttgarter Zeitung**

East Berlin party leader Erich Honecker's visit to West Germany this month will be the main event in the otherwise lackluster business of relations between the two German states.

It is a chance to undo some political knots and stimulate new joint projects and provides a chance to look at policies in the area and check if they are helping basic aims.

Because spectacular political appearances are one thing. The capacities of the policies which engineer them are another.

Although the general state of East-West relations has allowed this visit to take place, the principle reason it is going ahead is the clear improvement in relations between the German states.

There have rarely been so many meetings between East and West German politicians as in recent months and only seldom East Germany has so conspicuously.

A major state occasion such as the Honecker visit does not mean that less effort is needed, but it is a challenge to do even more.

*Hermann Rudolph*  
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 10 August 1987)

doubtful. Admittedly, the fact that almost every *Land* Premier in the Federal Republic feels the urge to become involved in intra-German politics is to be welcomed.

However, the fact that the various *Land* are seeking their own contacts with East Berlin officials does not make Bonn's policy a whole look all that good.

There is a risk that too much attention is being paid to theoretical possibilities in this field. The playing of a "German card" by Moscow, for example, has almost become a myth.

Instead, we should concentrate on financial realities and the essential interests of East Germany.

The federalisation of Deutschlandpolitik and the debate about the meaningfulness or lack of meaningfulness of German reunification are symptoms of both their revival and their weakness.

Too many opinions are being spread offhand and there are too many concepts which have not been thought out. One explanation could be the lack of a clear political will in Bonn.

The politologist Werner Weidenfeld recently came up with the idea of a second Basic Treaty in order to raise Deutschlandpolitik to a new level.

Things needn't go that far, but renewed efforts to make policies more preferable and far-sighted in this field are essential.

This has fostered a wind of change and a new air of the unpredictable.

These European countries have to a certain extent started going their own way.

In this process West Europeans have

a substantial lead, since they already

possess a joint and powerful organisation, especially in the economic field:

the European Community.

The European Community has often been ridiculed in the past as an incessantly squabbling community of shopkeepers.

It has turned out to be a new power factor, however, with a remarkable appeal for countries bordering on its member states.

Western European integration has been evolving slowly, in conflict, i.e. democratically and seeking consensus, and without the pressures of an hegemonic power.

Theological students only a generation ago had only heard of a single book by a Catholic researcher in lectures in Protestant faculties.

Today, academic works from Evangelical, Anglican and Catholic research are quoted indiscriminately alongside each other in footnotes.

After the last war the influence of German research was considerable. Then many German academics went to America. Now there is a new generation of young American academics.

There are flourishing relations between America, Germany and the other European countries by cooperation in the publication of academic works, guest lectures and international congresses.

German theological books are more frequently translated than before. But many American publishers complain that many German academics are too verbose, making them unpalatable in the US.

In America there is an increased relationship between New Testament theology and practical disciplines such as psychology and educational theory.

The training of theological students in Germany is regarded as robust. But there are more complaints than there used to be in theological faculties that the study of Greek and Hebrew is too difficult and that many pastors do not prepare their sermons from a knowledge of the Bible in the original.

Complaints were also heard at seminars and lectures that it was not made sufficiently clear to students how a knowledge of the Greek and Hebrew texts opened up the meaning of the Biblical and dogma.

Karl-Alfred Odil  
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 21 August 1987)

individual CMEA countries will increase.

In the wake of growing internal democratisation in the Soviet Union the latter is finding it increasingly difficult to shape the course of developments in neighbouring socialist countries.

The destiny of the "European Community East", therefore, is predictable and will roughly correspond to a development which can currently be observed among EEC member states: the greater the democratic, economic and political appeal of the European Community, the more frequently EEC members will leave that organisation to join the European Community instead.

Every new accession to the "European Community West" means that Soviet analysts and strategists must do some rethinking.

On the one hand, the significance of the European Community for the Soviet Union is increasing; on the other hand, the accession of countries such as Austria, Norway or even Sweden means that it would no longer join a military threat.

If things do develop along these lines an increasingly democratic Soviet Union will not be able to bind the members of the Eastern bloc to its own strategies to the same extent as in the past.

The result will be a gradual reorientation of the countries in Central Europe, initially in the economic field.

This could lead, for example, to an association or even membership in the European Community of countries such as Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and even East Germany.

Countries such as Bulgaria or Romania would probably foster even closer ties with the Soviet Union in such a changed constellation due to historical traditions.

Via technology and trade agreements between the Soviet Union and a "new" European Community this would also bring about considerable benefits for the Soviet Union itself, since it would obtain better technologies and greater stability for its own "empire".

Such a development would result in a substantial reduction of tension in Europe, including the elimination of the wall of shame in Berlin which discredits the Soviet Union throughout the world.

For Germany as a whole this would initially mean the existence of two German states in the European Community

→ the Federal Republic of Germany and East Germany.

Both could decide how close the extent of their collaboration within the Community should be.

A historical process of the kind outlined here would currently seem to be the most probable of all conceivable models of development.

In more concrete terms: any move towards German reunification in peace and in freedom would be in this form.

Any specifically German policy aimed at accelerating such a development would probably only have limited success.

The decisive factors are a further opening up, democratisation, internal stabilisation and normalisation of the previously sclerotic and ossified Communist bloc-mindedness inside and outside of the Soviet Union.

*Ingo Friedrich*  
(Wirtschaftswache, Düsseldorf, 17 August 1987)

## A possible path towards a reunification of Germany

The author, Dr Ingo Friedrich, is leader of the CDU/CSU group in the European Parliament.

The confusion in the discussion over zero, double zero and triple zero solutions has rekindled a discussion on the emotive topic of German reunification.

The federalisation of Deutschlandpolitik and the debate about the meaningfulness or lack of meaningfulness of German reunification are symptoms of both their revival and their weakness.

There is a risk that too much attention is being paid to theoretical possibilities in this field. The playing of a "German card" by Moscow, for example, has almost become a myth.

Instead, we should concentrate on financial realities and the essential interests of East Germany.

The federalisation of Deutschlandpolitik and the debate about the meaningfulness or lack of meaningfulness of German reunification are symptoms of both their revival and their weakness.

There is a risk that too much attention is being paid to theoretical possibilities in this field. The playing of a "German card" by Moscow, for example, has almost become a myth.

Instead, we should concentrate on financial realities and the essential interests of East Germany.

The federalisation of Deutschlandpolitik and the debate about the meaningfulness or lack of meaningfulness of German reunification are symptoms of both their revival and their weakness.

There is a risk that too much attention is being paid to theoretical possibilities in this field. The playing of a "German card" by Moscow, for example, has almost become a myth.

Instead, we should concentrate on financial realities and the essential interests of East Germany.

The federalisation of Deutschlandpolitik and the debate about the meaningfulness or lack of meaningfulness of German reunification are symptoms of both their revival and their weakness.

There is a risk that too much attention is being paid to theoretical possibilities in this field. The playing of a "German card" by Moscow, for example, has almost become a myth.

Instead, we should concentrate on financial realities and the essential interests of East Germany.

The federalisation of Deutschlandpolitik and the debate about the meaningfulness or lack of meaningfulness of German reunification are symptoms of both their revival and their weakness.

There is a risk that too much attention is being paid to theoretical possibilities in this field. The playing of a "German card" by Moscow,

## ■ THE ECONOMY

## Hiccup in the ritual reaction to unemployment

Month after month, the German unemployment figures are published. Month after month, the ritualised reactions are played out.

The respective sides comprise, on one hand the government and employers; and on the other, the Opposition and the trade unions. Their opposed views hardened a long time ago.

But now comes a blip in this pattern. After the last set of (worst) figures were published, West Berlin's social affairs senator, Ulf Fink, a Christian Democrat, made an appeal for concerted action by central government, the *Länder* and local communities.

This got an immediate reaction from FDP economics expert Count Otto Lambsdorff, a former Cabinet minister, who said Fink was getting "dangerously close" to the SPD idea of "work and environment."

Lambsdorff had read the statement correctly. A Social Democrat, Wolfgang Roth, effusively welcomed Fink's suggestion while the Trades Union Federation pointed out that Fink had confirmed their own views.

The Bonn government rejected Fink's suggestion. It does not believe that action of this sort would be effective. The discussion ended, and not just because Bonn went into summer recess.

The dispute about the use of government programmes has been dealt with in many meetings. The adversaries have become tired.

But the conflict will always flare up again so long as the unemployment figure in the Federal Republic does not drop significantly below two million.

The point at issue is that the state must provide a lot of money, must be the driving force behind more economic growth so that more people become employed. But this strategy's chances of success are small.

In view of the increased unemployment for July and the unusual economic situation the opposition complains that depending on market forces cannot be the only answer to the problem.

Heinrich Franke, president of the Nuremberg-based Federal Employment Office, regrets that there is no nerve in the labour market. In addition, more

schoolleavers are seeking jobs and women are looking for work.

Little relief can be expected in the foreseeable future, particularly for people who have lost their jobs after being employed for 20 or 30 years and who have to compete with younger people.

Experience has shown that the older a person is and the longer he or she has been without a job the worse their chances are.

Many personnel departments decline to consider unemployed applicants. They want employed people because they consider they will have kept abreast of developments in their field.

With this kind of thinking, the difficulties of re-employing older workers become almost insurmountable.

Little has been achieved by asking employers to examine the qualifications of unemployed applicants first and not be guided by supposition.

It makes sense for the government to help. That's why it is intended that, from 1988, unemployed people over 50 who are taken will get up to 75 per cent of their wages paid by the state.

This got an immediate reaction from FDP economics expert Count Otto Lambsdorff, a former Cabinet minister, who said Fink was getting "dangerously close" to the SPD idea of "work and environment."

Everyone who has a job should be prepared to chip in, and not only because, for no fault of their own, anyone can fall into the same miserable situation.

The assurances that those who are standing out in the cold will not be forgotten will gain credibility.

In the amendment to labour promotion legislation the government has made an offer to companies. It is to be hoped that the material attractions for employing older workers will be great enough to overcome prejudice.

Bennigsen's views carry weight. The real GNP growth rate has been reduced from the early 1950s when it was 7.9 per cent on average to 1.5 per cent this decade.

Demands on the state by business

men and trades unionists involved in social welfare affairs must be restricted.

The West German economy has assets, power and dynamism enough to survive this urgent, drastic cure, even come out of it strengthened.

Politicians, business and academics must reflect together on the constantly cited principles of the free market economy system of capitalism.

Risks are limited when an employer takes on temporary workers. So an employer is prepared to take on an unemployed person.

The SPD and the trades unions have sharply rejected this legislation, because they fear that it could be misused by extending the probationary period and permanent jobs would become the exception.

Politicians are (naturally) concerned with getting re-elected but this selfishness must be put behind them if they

Continued on page 15

## Germany urged to shut its eyes and take its medicine

London's daily *Financial Times* fired

the first broadside earlier this summer when it said the much-vanished German economy, with its sluggish growth, high unemployment and heavy taxes, lifeless markets and massive public subsidies, could no longer be held up as a model for other European countries.

Then New York's *Wall Street Journal* fired off a cannonade. It said that despite West Germany's enormous trade surpluses and negligible inflation, it made whether it is evil or agriculture, steed or shipyards.

This applies to the subsidies to the old industries just as much so to the deregulation of the postal services and the railways and for pending privatisation.

This also applies to personal tax relief, social welfare expenditure and the administration of almost all entrepreneurial undertakings.

Major tax reform is a milestone for this government. If it is just voted to death this autumn then subsidies will remain, then entrepreneurial freedom of movement will not be created.

It is vital to solve problems swiftly because markets in the Federal Republic are to a large degree static and the German population is tending to get fewer and fewer.

Businessmen must again be able to afford their workforce so as to combat effectively persistent unemployment. Greater flexibility is related to this.

The concentration of economic power in the hands of the state must be curtailed.

Demands on the state by business men and trades unionists involved in social welfare affairs must be restricted.

The West German economy has assets, power and dynamism enough to survive this urgent, drastic cure, even come out of it strengthened.

Politicians, business and academics must reflect together on the constantly cited principles of the free market economy system of capitalism.

Risks are limited when an employer takes on temporary workers. So an employer is prepared to take on an unemployed person.

The SPD and the trades unions have sharply rejected this legislation, because they fear that it could be misused by extending the probationary period and permanent jobs would become the exception.

Politicians are (naturally) concerned with getting re-elected but this selfishness must be put behind them if they

DIE WELT  
WORLDWIDE DAILY NEWSPAPER

want to revive the West German economy.

It would be desirable that no future exceptions to the competitive system, for which splendid reasons are regularly given for specific cases, are made whether it is evil or agriculture, steed or shipyards.

This applies to the subsidies to the old industries just as much so to the deregulation of the postal services and the railways and for pending privatisation.

This also applies to personal tax relief, social welfare expenditure and the administration of almost all entrepreneurial undertakings.

Major tax reform is a milestone for this government. If it is just voted to death this autumn then subsidies will remain, then entrepreneurial freedom of movement will not be created.

It is vital to solve problems swiftly because markets in the Federal Republic are to a large degree static and the German population is tending to get fewer and fewer.

Businessmen must again be able to afford their workforce so as to combat effectively persistent unemployment. Greater flexibility is related to this.

The concentration of economic power in the hands of the state must be curtailed.

Demands on the state by business men and trades unionists involved in social welfare affairs must be restricted.

The West German economy has assets, power and dynamism enough to survive this urgent, drastic cure, even come out of it strengthened.

Politicians, business and academics must reflect together on the constantly cited principles of the free market economy system of capitalism.

Risks are limited when an employer takes on temporary workers. So an employer is prepared to take on an unemployed person.

The SPD and the trades unions have sharply rejected this legislation, because they fear that it could be misused by extending the probationary period and permanent jobs would become the exception.

Politicians are (naturally) concerned with getting re-elected but this selfishness must be put behind them if they

Continuing from page 1289  
The Coordinating Committee for East-West Trade (Cocom) was set up on 22 November 1949 when, in the Cold War, the West decided to apply trade measures. Cocom still operates from a wing of the American consulate in Paris. It is now made up of 16 Nato partners including Japan — Iceland is not a member. There is an element of mystery about this organisation which exercises so much influence over East-West trade. Jürgen Klotz here takes a look at Cocom for the *Frankfurter Rundschau*.

This list includes Albania, Bulgaria, China, Cuba, Mongolia, North Korea, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Vietnam.

Items included in the sub-division A to D cannot be approved for export to these countries. Should the German authorities interpret the regulations too narrowly then the Cocom secretariat makes a decision on East Bloc cases, and this secretariat usually gives the thumbs down.

Stuttgart-based SEL was bitterly disappointed when in the autumn of 1984 the company wanted to export to Hungary ten digital telephone exchanges, a deal worth DM30m.

Neither the Foreign Trade and Industry Office in Eschborn nor the Bonn government were against the deal, but in Paris approval was withheld and it fell through.

Even experts have problems finding their way through the Foreign Trade Ordinance annex. It includes, as already mentioned, only a part of the Cocom list. The remainder is to be found in the so-called Notes, that have not been made public in West Germany so far.

The Central Association of the Electro-technical and Electronic Industries has recently translated into German the notes only covering computer hardware and software, included in the British Security Export Control List and describing technical details of espionage merchandise.

The deal promises to be expensive for Toshiba and Kongsberg. The Senate has asked President Reagan to bar the two companies from the American market for two years. This could drive Kongsberg into bankruptcy.

This list, and most spectacularly, example of illegal exports to the USSR, has cast the spotlight on the publicity-shy Cocom.

There is mystery surrounding the organisation that has for a whole generation determined the nature and volume of trading relations between the East and West.

It is too much to expect small companies to observe all the regulations. As these get more and more complicated all the time it takes the Federal Trade and Industry Office more and more time to process applications.

Recently the sinister list included an item that no longer defined the product but just equipment.

If textiles machinery is controlled by a micro-processor which, according to Cocom regulations cannot be supplied to the Soviet Union because the processor could be easily extracted and is not integrated into the equipment, or because it exceeds well-defined productivity limits, then the exporter can throw the contract to the winds.

An expert on Cocom affairs said that many firms do not know what is in store for them. If previously an exporter could rely on getting approval without any trouble for the export of timber-handling equipment, tool or casting machinery, there is now the question of electronic controls as a component of the equipment that bars the exporter exporting.

Obviously this does not just apply to the "classical" products of mechanical engineering, but also for modern equipment for medical technology for instance. In addition Cocom has barred the export of computer programmes, technical know-how and design plans.

In view of this situation the second mild surprise is West German industry's silence about the patronising treatment it gets from the Paris organisation. In America everything is banned that is not expressly permitted, while in most of Europe the opposite is true.

Cocom is a loose, unofficial organisation with enormous influence. In such a context Cocom then, dominated by the Americans, is felt to be in West Germany not only a foreign body but a harmful arrangement.

Unfortunately the export ban on weapons to countries in List C was accepted without reservation by West German industry. Industry knuckled under as regards other products are processes, however, which can only be explained by the greater dependence on America than on Russia, China or their satellites.

Reiner Lang is one of the few businessmen who does not mince his words. He became well-known this summer for the establishment of the first German-Russian joint venture.

Lang is owner and managing director of the Heinemann machinery and plant construction firm, based in St. Georgen in the Black Forest.

Furthermore he is a member of the CDU which he mentioned immediately so that there could be no doubt about his political affiliation.

His politics did not prevent him from describing Cocom as a "dinosaur from the pre-industrial age that should be abolished straightaway."

In future West Germany will be more deeply involved in exporting than previously. It is then in the country's best interests, he said, "to pay greater attention to the high technology sector in major sales markets such as the Soviet Union and China and to push through technical transfer with these countries."

He said that it should also not be forgotten that our neighbours are not sleeping and finally that we are not a province of the USA."

Lang is also very doubtful about the effects of Cocom regulations. He maintains that if the East Bloc countries want something they get it.

Lang only confirms what he theoretical claim has been saying for a long time. According to Peter Clotz, former SPD parliamentary manager, "it is foolish to believe that the flow of information to the East Bloc can be cut off by Cocom decisions."

It would be totally wrong to believe, he maintains, that Russian weapons development could be hindered to any extent by limiting technology exports.

Clotz continued: "But above all things the heroes of Cocom compromise must make clear that it has been absolutely impossible to control or prevent re-export via third countries."

Academics such as Heinrich Maukowsky from the German Institute for Economic Research in Berlin take the same line. He said: "Experience has shown that an embargo has never worked."

Even against a country such as the Soviet Union it has been ineffective, he said, because Moscow is not going to let itself be blackmailed into good behaviour as regards armaments through economic pressure.

Because the Soviet leadership does not have to take into consideration individual economic interests, it is free to decide, "whether it will or will not purchase specific plant and processes. If the decision is positive then they get what they want."

Reiner Lang finds nothing to laugh about in the recent report that Cocom regulations for the export of certain personal computers will be relaxed.

He said: "My son plays with such equipment at home. You can buy them here in every department store."

Jürgen Klotz  
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 22 August 1987)

## 220,000 suppliers of 75,000 products 'made in Germany'

**Einkaufs-1x1**  
der Deutschen Industrie

Erzeugnisse  
'Made in Germany'  
und ihre Hersteller

DAV-Verlagshaus Darmstadt

Who manufactures what?

Find suppliers and products, and for quotations, compare prices, track down special sources of supply, cut costs by buying at lower prices.

This is a reference work every buying department should have at the ready.

Easy to use, just like an encyclopaedia.

Products, including 9,000 trade marks, are arranged alphabetically, complete with

manufacturer's or supplier's address.

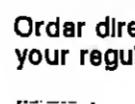
A telephone number is listed for each supplier.

1,400 pages A4, indexed in English and French.

Price: DM88.44 post free in Germany, DM107.44 abroad. Air mail extra.

DAV-Verlagshaus  
Postfach 11 04 52  
D-6100 Darmstadt  
Federal Republic of Germany  
Tel.: (0 61 51) 3 91-0

Order direct from us or from your regular bookseller.



DAV-Verlagshaus  
Postfach 11 04 52  
D-6100 Darmstadt  
Federal Republic of Germany  
Tel.: (0 61 51) 3 91-0

## ■ COMPUTERS

## Human speech presents researchers with a tough nut to crack

Where is the table? the computer was asked. "Under the apple juice," came the reply.

Scientists developing computers which can speak and be spoken to are likely to come across such genus of logic in their work.

Processing human speech is one of the major challenges that face AI, or artificial intelligence, the sector of informatics that involves teaching computers how to think for themselves.

It is such a big challenge because intelligence can only be computer-simulated once scientists have found out how thought and perception processes work in the human brain.

Speech is the only approach they have. "Thought processes proper are simply not visible," says Walther von Hahn. "So statements about intelligence are mainly statements about speech ton."

It was Professor von Hahn's computer which gave the apple-juice answer.

He heads the Hamburg research unit on information science and artificial intelligence.

He and his associates are among the world's foremost specialists in natural speech dialogue between man and machine.

One of their first projects was the Hamburg speech partner model. It entailed using a keyboard to ask the computer simple questions on a precisely

DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT

defined mini-world, a living room. It was to answer the questions in an intelligent manner.

It did not just have to know rules of grammar and syntax, it also needed a knowledge of individual objects and relations between them.

Concepts such as table or chair are fairly difficult to explain. How, then, is one to explain to a computer the meaning of gross national product or competitiveness?

Progress in AI research will depend in a substantial degree on the extent in which abstract background knowledge can be processed and fed to computer systems.

Even then we will still not have solved the riddle of the many and varied processes that run partly in series when people talk with each other.

In addition to "communicative processes" converting spoken words in signals computers can understand presents serious problems.

That is not surprising. People often forget clearly to pronounce word endings. They mumble and sometimes forget entire words.

Simple computer systems that can re-

cognise individual spoken words from a limited vocabulary are already on the market.

But fluent language, as opposed to individual words, is a more difficult. The human brain can distinguish between and identify individual concepts as it hears them mentioned.

A computer first registers a spoken sentence as a continuous acoustic signal it must painstakingly plough through.

Siemens and Philips research scientists have jointly worked on this problem since 1984. Their Spicos project is aimed at analysing and answering questions posed in normal language.

Philips self-assuredly say this task can now be solved in the research level due to progress in algorithm development and computer techniques.

Spicos depends, however, on a specific speaker. Scientists must first prime the system with roughly 200 test sentences spoken by the speaker the computer is to talk with.

Regular Spicos performances are held at the Siemens research centre in Neuperlach, Munich.

What visitors are first shown of the tremendous computer does not, at first glance, seem very spectacular.

All that can be seen is a microphone, a monitor screen and a loudspeaker. The computer itself is in the room next door.

Then comes an echo of science fiction as Robert Sommer of Siemens asks the first question.

"Who made the application in the BMFT?" (The BMFT is the Federal Ministry of Research and Technology in Bonn.)

A few minutes later a metallic voice solemnly announces that: "Hilde and Lang made the application to the BMFT." The assembled Siemens staff are delighted.

But they admit that Spicos cannot yet distinguish between singular and plural.

The search for the right word is a long, hard slog for the computer. To simplify the process it has been taught a handful of rules.

One is that only about 70 of its vocabulary of 1,000 words can be used to start a sentence.

It breaks down each spoken signal into phonemes, the smallest spoken sound, and works out on the basis of probability which combination of phonemes makes most sense.

It can follow up as many as 6,000 hypotheses simultaneously, although — as the Spicos project's Wolfgang Köpper puts it — the quest can sometimes lead it astray. Then, sooner or later, it gives up.

"You can visualise it as a gigantic paper chase," Köpper says, "with teams that drive off in cars to identify items."

"From time to time they are checked and the cars that are trailing the rest are retired from the race, leaving the rest in the running."

The paper chase is not over until the phonemes have been satisfactorily interpreted. This is done with reference to a computerised lexicon and by means of logical associations.

Internal queries to the Spicos data bank and the answers are, in comparison, little more than a matter of routine.

The excitement increases when the answer is to be converted into synthetic speech. It is pieced together from indi-

vidual sounds stored in a speech module devised by Philips research scientists in Eindhoven, Holland. The answer resounds from the loudspeaker in a zany Dutch-sounding voice.

Processing questions still takes time, but the procedure is to be speeded up over the next three years.

The computer should by then be able quickly get used to different speakers and to conduct a short conversation by an intelligent question-and-answer routine.

Compared with the megahip Philips and Siemens are also jointly developing Spicos in small fry, with a staff of 35, and a BMFT grant of a mere DM 10m.

Yet Klans-Steffen Isensee, in charge of the project at the Ministry, says speech comprehension systems are among the most important projects with which the BMFT is associated.

Why go to the trouble? Why should one be able to speak to a machine in the same way as we speak to each other?

Computer research scientists are not at a loss for an answer, although they are reluctant to go into details of specific projects at present.

"There are situations in which non-verbal communication is extremely tortuous," they say. "Speech simply comes most naturally."

In the final analysis it is not just a matter of boosting computer performance but of simplifying computer controls.

Even people who aren't computer buffs are to be enabled to handle computers — at work, for instance.

Given speech recognition, quality control staff in car assembly lines could, for instance, relay shortcomings straight to the computer in charge of production planning.

Warehouse staff could, by the same token, computer inventories in their stock of microphones.

Already many day be piloted by means of spoken instructions of telephone he made in dial automatically on being told the number.

A digitalised telephone network would provide a wide range of uses extending from automatic information services to simultaneous interpreter services for telephone calls with other handful of rules.

If these systems were to work they would, however, need to be totally independent of any one speaker — and much more intelligent than present day systems.

No-one will venture to suggest that might be the case.

Is this Brue New World prospect? Before we can make intelligent computers that understand the spoken word we will need to learn much, much more about ourselves.

What can be said for sure is that artificial intelligence will change our habits yet again.

At research scientists are well aware of their responsibility.

"There are social tasks we must consider us being for humans only," von Hahn says, "and take care not to use artificial systems."

The paper chase is not over until the phonemes have been satisfactorily interpreted. This is done with reference to a computerised lexicon and by means of logical associations.

Internal queries to the Spicos data bank and the answers are, in comparison, little more than a matter of routine.

The excitement increases when the answer is to be converted into synthetic speech. It is pieced together from indi-

vidual sounds stored in a speech module devised by Philips research scientists in Eindhoven, Holland. The answer resounds from the loudspeaker in a zany Dutch-sounding voice.

Processing questions still takes time, but the procedure is to be speeded up over the next three years.

The computer should by then be able quickly get used to different speakers and to conduct a short conversation by an intelligent question-and-answer routine.

Compared with the megahip Philips and Siemens are also jointly developing Spicos in small fry, with a staff of 35, and a BMFT grant of a mere DM 10m.

Yet Klans-Steffen Isensee, in charge of the project at the Ministry, says speech comprehension systems are among the most important projects with which the BMFT is associated.

Why go to the trouble? Why should one be able to speak to a machine in the same way as we speak to each other?

Computer research scientists are not at a loss for an answer, although they are reluctant to go into details of specific projects at present.

"There are situations in which non-verbal communication is extremely tortuous," they say. "Speech simply comes most naturally."

In the final analysis it is not just a matter of boosting computer performance but of simplifying computer controls.

Even people who aren't computer buffs are to be enabled to handle computers — at work, for instance.

Given speech recognition, quality control staff in car assembly lines could, for instance, relay shortcomings straight to the computer in charge of production planning.

Warehouse staff could, by the same token, computer inventories in their stock of microphones.

Already many day be piloted by means of spoken instructions of telephone he made in dial automatically on being told the number.

A digitalised telephone network would provide a wide range of uses extending from automatic information services to simultaneous interpreter services for telephone calls with other handful of rules.

If these systems were to work they would, however, need to be totally independent of any one speaker — and much more intelligent than present day systems.

No-one will venture to suggest that might be the case.

Is this Brue New World prospect? Before we can make intelligent computers that understand the spoken word we will need to learn much, much more about ourselves.

What can be said for sure is that artificial intelligence will change our habits yet again.

At research scientists are well aware of their responsibility.

"There are social tasks we must consider us being for humans only," von Hahn says, "and take care not to use artificial systems."

The paper chase is not over until the phonemes have been satisfactorily interpreted. This is done with reference to a computerised lexicon and by means of logical associations.

Internal queries to the Spicos data bank and the answers are, in comparison, little more than a matter of routine.

The excitement increases when the answer is to be converted into synthetic speech. It is pieced together from indi-

No. 1289 - 6 September 1987

THE GERMAN TRIBUNE

9

## ■ ENERGY

## Hurdles in harnessing alternative sources

Frankfurter Rundschau

Fossil fuels — oil and gas, and later coal — will be exhausted within a few generations. Attention is turning to other, alternative energy sources, especially solar power, running water, wind, tides, environmental heat and biomass.

But an energy specialist employed by the electrical engineering firm of Brown, Boveri AG, says that the public tends to be too easily impressed by the possibilities of alternative energy sources.

Wolfgang Kohl told a public meeting that solar power was an example. Solar power potential amounted to 20,000 times the current level of world energy consumption.

But this theoretical potential amounting to 175 billion megawatts was rapidly reduced by unavoidable losses.

Only about 14 per cent of solar radiation

reaches the Earth's landmass and can even in theory be put to technical use.

This potential is further depleted in conversion and by having to compete with established energy sources.

Dr Kohl outlined how he saw the potential of the various energy sources.

Hydroelectric power: Installed capacity in Germany is 6,700 megawatts generated by about 2,000 hydroelectric power stations (using running water and reservoirs).

On economic and technical grounds, Dr Kohl said, solar energy could only be harnessed in the Federal Republic in addition to established systems and by means of direct conversion using solar cells and photovoltaic principles.

That was a high percentage, especially when it was remembered that major water resources were not used to generate hydroelectric power on conservation grounds.

Output could mainly be boosted by modernising old equipment from the water input to the generator.

Building new, small-scale hydroelectric power stations entailed high specific investment that was usually only warranted in combination with other projects.

If these systems were to work they would, however, need to be totally independent of any one speaker — and much more intelligent than present day systems.

No-one will venture to suggest that might be the case.

Is this Brue New World prospect? Before we can make intelligent computers that understand the spoken word we will need to learn much, much more about ourselves.

Besides, solar cells are still far too expensive. New technologies that may

wind power: The best-known wind power research project in West Germany is Growian, near Brunsbüttel on the North Sea coast, at the junction of the Kiel Canal and the Elbe estuary.

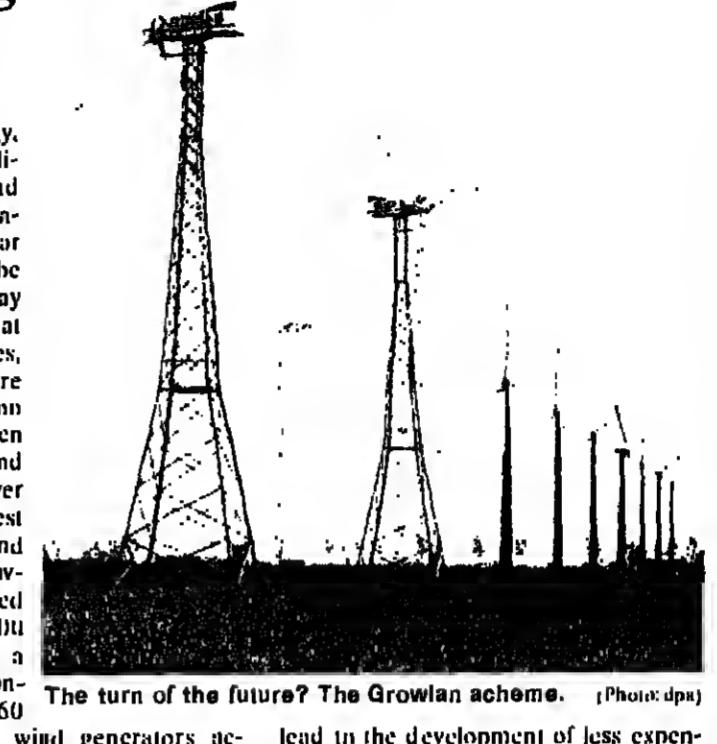
A twin-bladed rotor on top of a tower 100 metres (328ft) high drives a three-megawatt generator. Growian was taken into service in October 1983 and trials are to continue until the end of this year.

Twenty small-scale wind generators

to be built on the Growian site, to be followed by a further ten.

Wind generators made sense in locations with steady, high winds, Dr Kohl said. They usually ran at wind speeds of between five and 20 metres per second.

These conditions mainly prevailed in coastal areas, although in some cases they also occurred in the mountains.



The turn of the future? The Growian scheme. (Photo: dpa)

lead in the development of less expensive and more powerful solar cells have yet to reach maturity.

"At present," Dr Kohl said, "solar cells still take roughly as much energy to manufacture as they will generate over a 20-year lifespan."

Current estimates forecast a strictly limited market for solar power in the Federal Republic of Germany by the year 2000.

This inference must inevitably be drawn from the forecast that renewable energy sources will account for a mere seven per cent of power output by the end of the century, including five per cent hydroelectric and one per cent wind power.

Yet there was no lack of experimental facilities, Dr Kohl said. The largest European solar power station, on the North Sea island of Pellworm, supplies the spa centre with electric power.

In Central Europe the average intensity of solar radiation per square metre per year is only half as high as further south where solar cells already have a market.

In countries where sunshine is a plentiful commodity it is used to power irrigation pumps, air conditioning units and telecom facilities.

Comparative costs are as follows, with hydroelectric power the lowest-cost alternative.

Hydroelectric power generated from running water costs about 10 pfennigs per kilowatt-hour. Thermal power stations (coal-fired or nuclear) generate power for between 13 and 21 pfennigs per kilowatt-hour to produce.

As long as over a third of electric power consumption is wasted for heating and as long as road transport could easily make do with half the motor fuel it uses and as long as endless amounts of process heat go to waste there can be no question of an energy shortage.

Do we want new and even more gigantic power stations with nuclear reactors about 100 times larger and far more complicated than those of a conventional fission power station?

They may be less dangerous than a conventional nuclear power station but will probably be much more liable to break down, if only because they are much more complicated.

As long as over a third of electric power consumption is wasted for heating and as long as road transport could easily make do with half the motor fuel it uses and as long as endless amounts of process heat go

## ■ BERLIN

## Exhibitions show the achievements, the suffering and the failures



jutting walls, a ribbed tower and a sheet of glass with a neon advertising slogan make up a construction consisting of quotations.

The bustle and bustle simulates the metropolitan Moloch as seen by both its admirers and adversaries in the days when Brecht put on his Expressionist play "Im Dickicht der Städte" and Ludwig Hilberseimer designed his totalitarian honeycomb-pattern city.

Repetition sounds a neutral note as it ranges from one possible interpretation to the next.

It is, initially, neither a hopeful nor a monstrous metropolitan utopia but merely the framework for the 1920s tile of tempo, technology and communication by all means and in all directions.

But the premonitions and warning signs are already apparent. To one side, seemingly arranged in an undemonstrative setting, a 1932 propaganda report entitled "Hitler über Deutschland" can be seen. It shows the Führer-to-be flying round Germany.

At the same time we are shown Jewish entrepreneurs, bankers and newspaper proprietors — while the public are gathered in the Lustgarten to await the landing of their up-and-coming Führer.

The 1939 "Motorcyclists on the Avus," the famous racetrack and urban autobahn, life-sized hikers in bronze, are seen going flat out downhill — surely a symbol of direction.

Remains of foundations and the clear outlines of a row of prison cells are all that is left of the focal point of Nazi power.

What went on here from 1933 in the name of the Gestapo, the Reichsführer SS and the Reichssicherheitshauptamt is outlined in an exhibition entitled "The Topography of Terror."

The two exhibitions housed next door in the museum do not concentrate on the last days of the Reich, but they, too, are permeated with items that herald the end. Their titles say it all: "The City and I" and "Berlin, Berlin."

"The City and I" illustrates people in the city as seen by German Expressionist painters and their successors.

Ludwig Meidner's 1913 self-portrait against the background of tilting towers in the name of the "holy fatherland" and of traditional, nationally-tinged Christianity.

The most important sections of the exhibition deal with how successful this propaganda was. But where, and in what dark recesses, did it originate?

"Berlin, Berlin" in contrast illustrates both industrial development, including entrepreneurial achievement and proletarian suffering, and historical failure.

The old plan of presenting Berlin as a "human workshop" in its 750th anniversary year, featuring its urban, social and working environment and development, has been linked with a stroll round Berlin's political history.

A film seen flickering on the screen from an imitation aircraft cockpit brings to close the Babylon of Berlin the Reich capital, presenting an aerial view of the city reduced to rubble.

"Berlin, Berlin" is based on the presentation technique used in the Prussia exhibition. The exhibition architecture was devised by set designer Hans Dieter Schaal.

The "metropolitan myth" he houses in the museum's covered courtyard extends half-way up to the glass roof.

Steep inclines, irregular angles and

the

This is one of an occasional series to mark the 750th anniversary of the founding of Berlin this year.



**Motorcyclists on the Avus, life-size bronze figures 1939. The Avus is an autobahn formerly also used as a race track.**

(Photo: Binder/Berlin)

not in quite the same way. "But when we read what the newspapers made it," he added, "you are nauseated by appalling mendacity of it all."

"Berlin, Berlin" presents the last years of the Reich capital without resorting to stage sets. It dispenses with most of the circumstances, does not repeat clichés, or, in the light of progress, preferring to make do with what is available.

The hawk is more interesting as a character than the last production of what is in fact an extraordinary film director.

They are the result of five years' work but they are not even much of a help towards a better understanding of contemporary history. Her memory is not accurate enough for that.

Her hawk is more interesting as a character than the last production of what is in fact an extraordinary film director.

She is the result of five years' work but they are not even much of a help towards a better understanding of contemporary history. Her memory is not accurate enough for that.

Her hawk is more interesting as a character than the last production of what is in fact an extraordinary film director.

Everyone read the newspapers, billboards, everyone saw how the legacy of the "Führer's non-political betrothal" as work "without sense, without sorrow, without understanding."

In her autobiography she speaks in considerable detail about the man in her life, Hitler. She was overcome by an apocalyptic vision the first time she heard him speak in Berlin's Sportpalast in 1932. She does not have enough words to describe the charisma of this man.

She was metaphorically stunned by him, bowled over. From that moment on she had "fallen" for Hitler, even though she turned down his "excited" attempts to get to know her better during their first encounter at a North Sea resort.

They were then said to have been seen twice in the exhibition.

We are first shown a photograph of an older woman, then she turns down his "excited" attempts to get to know her better during their first encounter at a North Sea resort.

She has made out of her reserve at Hitler's advances a kind of anti-fascist resistance.

She wanted to appeal to his conscience about his racial policies until he said that "politically she was of unsound mind."

Hitler told her: "You understand nothing about politics, and it is a good thing that it is so."

In this way the heroine of the Third Reich de-Nazifies herself.

Hitler's erotic pestering and that of Goebbels, who was obviously in a class of his own when it came to fondling, are relatively uninteresting.

Wondering whether he ought to marry into a rich Jewish family, he was consoled by the thought that the regular visitors to his prospective in-laws' house included Dreyfus, Mommesen and Runke.

Gilbert noted that these three Prussian academics normally avoided each other's company and that they were only ever likely to meet as guests at Jewish soirees.

He made no mention of the fact that his grandmother, Enola Mendelssohn-BARTHOLDY, experienced Nazi Berlin for

## ■ FILMS

## Director's memoirs a bid for self-rehabilitation

### Hannoversche Allgemeine

Film-maker Leni Riefenstahl would prefer to forget her past. But it won't go away.

Franz Riefenstahl made propaganda films for the Third Reich. In those days, her work made her a reputation of being "the greatest film-maker of all time."

Even today, she is regarded highly. Hollywood director George Lucas describes her as "the most modern of film-makers."

Walter Benjamin was referring to this work, constantly described by Leni Riefenstahl herself as a harmless documentary, when he spoke of the "politicising of aesthetics," dissolving beauty in horror.

Just because she was only interested in the triumph of her "pure" artistic expression, it seemed as if she were created to transfigure National Socialism. Her naive instinct, to which she continuously returned, marched enthusiastically in step in Nuremberg.

She was born in 1902. Her father was a well-to-do plumber. She believed she had found a kindred soul in Arnold Fanck, a director of nature films and a mountaineer from Freiburg.

In 1925 she played the female lead alongside Luis Trenker in Fanck's film, *Der Heilige Berg*, a production whose background was the mystery of mountains with a phony mixture of the mountain dwarf and the mermaid.

Leni Riefenstahl was slotted into this absurdly exotic nature film by Fanck who looked in mountain ranges and glaciers for the elemental powers of nature that were irrational.

In her book one rather gets the impression that after many intrigues instigated against her and heroic refusal in her part that Riefenstahl has been discovered as a resistance fighter.

Her last film was *Tiefland*, begun in 1940 and completed 1954. It is still causing her trouble.

Film-maker Ruth Glitzl claimed in her documentary *Zwischen Schreinberg und der Dunkelheit*, that Leni Riefenstahl forced gypsies from the Masurian concentration camp to act as extras for her film, promising where possible to save them from Auschwitz.

"Aunt Leni," as she was called by her "daughters" from the "relief and welfare camp," did not want this serious accusation levelled against her. Her court ended early this year with painful success for both sides.

But once again it shows that Riefenstahl remains blind to all moral responsibility.

Leni Riefenstahl does not once make any attempt to answer this.

There is no question that her film *Triumph des Willens* on the party meeting in Nuremberg in 1934 is great cinema, a fascinating symphony of movement and rhythm, of mass choreography and the transfiguration of the Führer.

The people's sense of community was raised up in a mystic height by the incorporation of every individual in the marching masses, making Hitler completely into a fascist aesthetic.

In the 1970s she made a comeback as a photographer with her pictures of the Nubian Desert in the Sudan. But sport eroticism still lived on in her work for she still used naked bodies and exotic ritual.

Leni Riefenstahl claimed to have avoided Hitler so as not to be "engulfed in the flames of his personality." She avoided Goebbels because she felt uncomfortable in his presence.

She makes allowances for the Nazi regime in her book, claiming that she only saw the dazzling side of it.

"I never once had any idea of what was reflected behind the hurly-burly and brilliance in terms of human tragedy."

Even today she cannot quite understand why her Jewish friends suddenly disappeared. "What terrible things must have happened!" she comments.

After the German Army marched into Paris she sent a despatch to "My Führer" which read: "You have done deeds that are more than human imagination can devise, deeds that do not have their equal in human history." Obviously this is not to be found in her memoirs.

Leni Riefenstahl was slotted into this absurdly exotic nature film by Fanck who looked in mountain ranges and glaciers for the elemental powers of nature that were irrational.

Mountain climbing and skiing, the existential confrontation with nature, first-class heroic performance, which during the war was exaggerated to its limit. This was a male domain.

Film-maker Ruth Glitzl claimed in her documentary *Zwischen Schreinberg und der Dunkelheit*, that Leni Riefenstahl forced gypsies from the Masurian concentration camp to act as extras for her film, promising where possible to save them from Auschwitz.

"Aunt Leni," as she was called by her "daughters" from the "relief and welfare camp," did not want this serious accusation levelled against her. Her court ended early this year with painful success for both sides.

But once again it shows that Riefenstahl remains blind to all moral responsibility.

Continued from page 10

ness, tolerance, and refusal to compromise combined without the slightest commentary.

At the opening ceremony historian Felix Gilbert delivered a speech, arguably more a talk of the kind beloved of Fontane, his "beloved Fontane," from whom he borrowed the tale of a young officer from a poor but blue-blooded Prussian family.

In this way the heroine of the Third Reich de-Nazifies herself.

Hitler's erotic pestering and that of Goebbels, who was obviously in a class of his own when it came to fondling, are relatively uninteresting.

Wondering whether he ought to marry into a rich Jewish family, he was consoled by the thought that the regular visitors to his prospective in-laws' house included Dreyfus, Mommesen and Runke.

Gilbert noted that these three Prussian academics normally avoided each other's company and that they were only ever likely to meet as guests at Jewish soirees.

He then recalled his own childhood and his grandmother's home on the

main part. Hitler commented: "It is the most beautiful that I have ever seen." So it is not surprising that he not only gave her his trust in private but chose her as his favorite director.

In a very short space of time she shot for him *Sieg des Willens*, the German Army film *Tag der Freiheit* and *Triumph des Willens*.

She was eventually awarded a gold medal for her twin-part film on the 1936 Olympics.

It was anything but a sport film, or at least it was a sport film mixture of contest and mass enthusiasm, a display of muscles and patriotism corresponding exactly to fascist aesthetics.

In the 1970s she made a comeback as a photographer with her pictures of the Nubian Desert in the Sudan. But sport eroticism still lived on in her work for she still used naked bodies and exotic ritual.

Leni Riefenstahl claimed to have avoided Hitler so as not to be "engulfed in the flames of his personality." She avoided Goebbels because she felt uncomfortable in his presence.

She makes allowances for the Nazi regime in her book, claiming that she only saw the dazzling side of it.

"I never once had any idea of what was reflected behind the hurly-burly and brilliance in terms of human tragedy."

Even today she cannot quite understand why her Jewish friends suddenly disappeared. "What terrible things must have happened!" she comments.

After the war Leni Riefenstahl was considered an "a fellow traveller" in those de-nazification trials.

The verdict read: "It was not in her mind to make propaganda for the NSDAP." Her career seemed to have come to an end for even in former "friends" she was the "Nazi whore."

Even today she does not make things easy for her defenders. For any number of years she has played the part of the persecuted innocent party, the insulted diva, lamenting over her "dog's life" and the "witch-hunt" against her.

She said: "My enemies are invisible, nameless, but they are dreadful."

On the other hand she is not afraid of suing Erwin Leiser for infringement of copyright, because he included parts of *Triumph des Willens* in his Hitler film.

Leni Riefenstahl is a woman whose vitality and proud imperturbability can still impress, a type of high priestess of art with a rolling "r" and flashing eyes who has disappeared.

Her fate could be regarded as tragic, and one might be tempted to admire her, if she did not show herself in her memoirs still to be stubborn, green and unteachable.

She is a living warning and memorial to artistic enthusiasm that falls into faint because he believes in serving only the triumph of beauty.

*Martin Luther*

(Hannoversche Zeitung, 22 August 1987)

herself, dying as a very old lady in 1939. He also failed to remind his audience that Fontane, the novelist he so admires and who so fittingly described the variegated strata of late 19th century Berlin society, was strongly opposed to assimilation of the Jews.

"They can be incorporated," he wrote, "but not intellectually assimilated."

Gilbert distinguishes in his academic work between traditional, conservative anti-Semitism, of which Fontane's comments are but one instance among many, and modern fascist anti-Semitism, which culminated on the site opposite the Gropius Building.

One wonders whether this historical distinction does not go too far, bearing in mind the Third Reich's full accomplishment.

*Sibylle Wirsing*  
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 22 August 1987)

Continued on page 11

This is one of an occasional series to mark the 750th anniversary of the founding of Berlin this year.

Steep inclines, irregular angles and the overall historic context, tell their tale concisely and interestingly.

Joachim II of Brandenburg, in the guise of Hector, is a striking symbol of Prussia in the making.

The better-known period from the death of Frederick the Great to the advent of Bismarck is, in contrast, presented with nothing that might be considered a new approach.

Yet the authenticity of the implication — that high society is mummified on the threshold of modernity — can hardly be denied.

A nearby painting shows the crowd gathered, beneath grey umbrellas, on Unter den Linden in front of the Old Kaiser's palace. They converged on hearing the news that Wilhelm I had died aged 91.

## ■ MEDICINE

## High court rejects doctor's bid for mercy-killing approval

A doctor, Professor Julius Hackethal, has been prevented by one court from helping a paraplegic patient commit suicide because it would amount to murder while another court has cleared him of helping another patient to commit suicide in 1984 on the grounds that it was not an offence.

A court has disallowed a request by a doctor to help a paraplegic patient kill herself. The Federal Constitutional Court delivered what amounted to a reprimand for Professor Julius Hackethal, who has been at the centre of several controversies over the years.

Professor Hackethal wanted the court to give him permission although euthanasia, even if the patient asks to die, is classified as homicide by the terms of Paragraph 216 of the criminal code.

This view has for years been upheld by the Federal Supreme Court.

So if Professor Hackethal had really wanted to see justice (as he interprets it) done, he would have had to risk being convicted of homicide in the case of his 27-year-old woman patient.

Appeals to the Constitutional Court are only admissible, as a matter of principle, once the appeal has been heard by all other courts.

Exceptions are allowed solely when the appeal is felt to be of general importance.

portance or if the appellant stands to suffer a serious and unavoidable disadvantage if he is first required to take his case through the lower courts.

Professor Hackethal, always keen on publicity, had worked out to the smallest detail how he planned to enable his patient to commit suicide.

He had devised a technique by which she could operate with her mouth an intravenous drip containing a fatal narcotic solution.

The city of Karlsruhe objected and threatened to fine him DM 10,000 if he did act.

He appealed to the Constitutional Court, which significantly ruled that the appeal was inadmissible — and not groundless; a subtle legal distinction of far-reaching importance.

The court thus made it clear that his appeal against the ban on euthanasia did not raise an issue of general importance. He first had to take his case through the lower courts.

The Constitutional Court has long taken a most restrictive view of cases it must and must not hear — and for good reasons.

The problem is that death can occur not just by doing something but also by failing to do something.

A husband or wife who is under legal obligation to take care of his (or her) better half is not entitled to look on idly as the other person commits suicide.

Whether an issue is of general importance does not depend on any political outcry that may arise in connection with it. The crux is whether a ruling on the case in question will clarify the position in a substantial number of other cases. If part of the public debate on euthanasia can be in an even trickier position if they agree to stop treating a patient who dies sooner or later...

Many may feel this obligation on the doctor to preserve human life by machinery, sustaining a mere "vegetable" by life support systems, stands in stark contrast to dying in dignity.

They thus feel this obligation on the doctor is an unacceptable renunciation of what the patient may want.

If he wants to die, they argue (and Professor Hackethal is a staunch supporter of this line of argument), then he must be allowed — and helped — to do so, and he it for charity's sake.

Yet even if all ethical and religious misgivings were set aside, serious problems would still remain. Even when the patient is in a coma doctors cannot, in many cases, say for sure that he will never recover.

Handball international Jo Deckarm was a case in point. The doctors were disengaged in his case.

And even patients who are on record as wanting to be put to death if they ever suffer from, say, an incurable and extremely painful disease cannot say for sure whether they might not change their mind if the occasion ever arose.

The Constitutional Court was well aware of these issues, all of which have been amply aired in legal literature, in arriving at its ruling on Professor Hackethal's appeal.

Yet what makes the ruling so convincing is that details went on trial on formal, legal grounds but that the prompt dismissal of the appeal made the point no less clearly.

The point is that no man is entitled to take another's life even if the other asks him to do so. Ending human life is and remains a criminal offence.

In an initial statement Professor Hackethal said the ruling was "superb." He had been totally vindicated and had gained confidence in the courts.

Atrott called the ruling a historic

decision underscoring the human right

of self-determination.

Friedrich Graf von Westphalen

Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt,

Bonn, 7 August 1987



Doesn't shy away from publicity... Professor Julius Hackethal.

## Bench rules 'no crime' in suicide case

Julius Hackethal hit the headlines

in April 1981 when he supplied

medicine to a woman with terminal cancer.

Now, more than three years later, he

has been cleared by a Munich court

being to blame for her death. The court

said he had merely helped her to com

mit suicide, which was not an indictable

offence.

Doctors can be in an even trickier position if they agree to stop treating a patient who dies sooner or later...

Many may feel this obligation on the doctor to preserve human life by machinery, sustaining a mere "vegetable" by life support systems, stands in stark contrast to dying in dignity.

They thus feel this obligation on the doctor is an unacceptable renunciation of what the patient may want.

If he wants to die, they argue (and Professor Hackethal is a staunch supporter of this line of argument), then he must be allowed — and helped — to do so, and he it for charity's sake.

Yet even if all ethical and religious misgivings were set aside, serious problems would still remain. Even when the patient is in a coma doctors cannot, in many cases, say for sure that he will never recover.

Professor Hackethal was cleared, having helped to kill his patient by failing to come to her assistance.

Handball international Jo Deckarm was a case in point. The doctors were disengaged in his case.

And even patients who are on record as wanting to be put to death if they ever suffer from, say, an incurable and extremely painful disease cannot say for sure whether they might not change their mind if the occasion ever arose.

The Constitutional Court was well aware of these issues, all of which have been amply aired in legal literature, in arriving at its ruling on Professor Hackethal's appeal.

Yet what makes the ruling so convincing is that details went on trial on formal, legal grounds but that the prompt dismissal of the appeal made the point no less clearly.

The point is that no man is entitled to

take another's life even if the other asks him to do so. Ending human life is and

remains a criminal offence.

In an initial statement Professor Hackethal said the ruling was "superb." He had been totally vindicated and had gained confidence in the courts.

Atrott called the ruling a historic

decision underscoring the human right

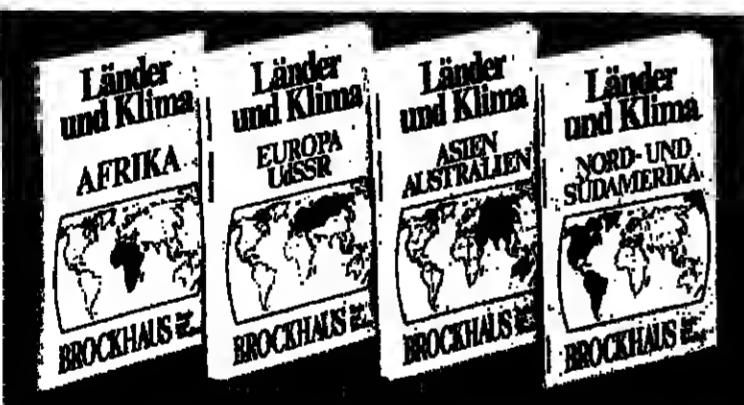
of self-determination.

Friedrich Graf von Westphalen

Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt,

Bonn, 7 August 1987

## Meteorological stations all over the world



supplied the data arranged in see-at-a-glance tables in these new reference works. They include details of air and water temperature, precipitation, humidity, sunshine, physical stress of climate, wind conditions and frequency of thunderstorms.

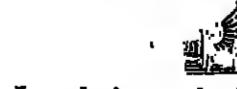
These figures compiled over the years are invaluable both for planning journeys to distant countries and for scientific research.

Basic facts and figures for every country in the world form a preface to the tables. The emphasis is on the country's natural statistics, on climate, population, trade and transport.

The guides are handy in size and flexibly bound, indispensable for daily use in commerce, industry and the travel trade.

Four volumes are available:

North and South America, 172 pp., DM 24.80;  
Asia/Australia, 240 pp., DM 24.80;  
Africa, 130 pp., DM 24.80;  
Europe/USSR, 240 pp., DM 24.80



Look it up in Brockhaus

F. A. Brockhaus, Postfach 1709; D-6200 Wiesbaden 1

## ■ BEHAVIOUR

## A mother campaigns against use of pills to subdue hyperactive children

### Saarbrücker Zeitung

Roswitha Wirtz's adopted child, Joachim, was a problem child from the beginning. The older he grew the worse he got.

He screamed, he was aggressive, he fought. He was impossible. He could not be handled at kindergarten nor, later, at primary school.

The situation was desperate and played havoc with the marriage. Frau Wirtz, 36, recalls that she and her husband, Harald, were almost at each other's throats at times. Life also became hell for their other children, Thomas and Elvira.

Then they found the answer — so they thought. Pills for the hyperactive child. For a long time, Joachim took a tablet every four hours. Frau Wirtz said:

"People who said we would never be able to handle the boy were suddenly charmed by him. They would say how nice he was."

In no time at all the pills made Joachim into a calm, thoughtful child. He is suddenly like a grown-up, he concentrated on things, did better at school and even did his homework."

She said: "The most important feature is to accept and tolerate the child. It is right and proper that the child should be as he or she is, and not changed to be someone else. Say to him: Yes, I know that you don't like the meal today, but if you throw it against the wall then you won't have anything to eat."

Or: "You have a right to your own obstinacy, but you must understand that the things you want for yourself are also there for others."

Frau Wirtz began with "consistent teaching." She and her husband no longer insisted on the trouble-making.

She has written books with such titles as *Ein Löffelchen Schmeckt*, *Anwälte für Psychopharmaka-Therapie bei Schulproblemen* (A small taste of success at school. Excess of psycho-pharmaceutical therapy for school problems).

The Munich court found that the 6-year-old patient had taken his life in his own free will. There were insufficient grounds for suspecting him of either killing his patient at her request or failing to do so in time to save her life.

It had been up to the patient to decide whether or not to take the medicine. Professor Hackethal is a staunch supporter of this line of argument, then he must be allowed — and helped — to do so, and he it for charity's sake.

Yet even if all ethical and religious misgivings were set aside, serious problems would still remain. Even when the patient is in a coma doctors cannot, in many cases, say for sure that he will never recover.

Professor Hackethal was cleared, having helped to kill his patient by failing to come to her assistance.

The court found that he was not required to prevent her from voluntarily committing suicide over and above his general legal obligation to provide medical assistance in an emergency.

The patient had voluntarily chosen to refuse medical assistance even when lost consciousness. So Professor Hackethal's appeal was overruled.

Handball international Jo Deckarm was a case in point. The doctors were disengaged in his case.

And even patients who are on record as wanting to be put to death if they ever suffer from, say, an incurable and extremely painful disease cannot say for sure whether they might not change their mind if the occasion ever arose.

The Constitutional Court was well aware of these issues, all of which have been amply aired in legal literature, in arriving at its ruling on Professor Hackethal's appeal.

Yet what makes the ruling so convincing is that details went on trial on formal, legal grounds but that the prompt dismissal of the appeal made the point no less clearly.

The point is that no man is entitled to

take another's life even if the other asks him to do so. Ending human life is and

remains a criminal offence.

In an initial statement Professor Hackethal said the ruling was "superb." He had been totally vindicated and had gained confidence in the courts.

Atrott called the ruling a historic

decision underscoring the human right

of self-determination.

Friedrich Graf von Westphalen

Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt,

Bonn, 7 August 1987

The Munich-based "Commission for psychiatric violations against human rights" is convinced that "parents with hyper-active children should not be worried, for long-term studies have shown that these children develop in the normal way and in later life will not be either asocial or disturbed."

Not all doctors see things in this way, but more and more are coming round to this view.

A scientific institute attached to the compulsory medical insurance scheme in Bonn has produced figures on the prescription of sedatives and psychoactive medicaments for children.

These figures show that nationwide within the space of 12 months 547,000 prescriptions were issued to children up to the age of six and 418,000 to children between six and 14.

This is almost a million prescriptions in the national health system alone. The figures do not include the sale of sedatives that do not need a prescription.

The medical magazine *Deutsche Ärztezeitung* reports that there has been a decline in the number of prescriptions issued for sedatives for children.

But Herbert Reichelt, a scientist attached to the compulsory medical insurance service, commented: "The lack of statistics for previous years makes it impossible to say that there has been a decline."

There is evidence, however, that doctors are currently issuing ten million fewer prescriptions for sedatives nationwide than they did in 1982.

Then there were 54.5 million prescriptions of this sort. In 1985 there were 44.6 million.

Most of these prescriptions for sedatives for emotional and nervous disorders, 70 per cent, were given to women.

Hans Willemer, *Willemer* (Saarbrücker Zeitung, 30 July 1987)

the same attitude towards divorce whether their parents were or were not divorced.

At this point, according to Heckerens, the fact is that the greatest risks that children of a divorce run are economic and not psychological, which causes them to get divorced later themselves.

Children from divorced parents are in population groups that suffer doubly from economic and social disadvantages. On the one hand they come out of difficult situations more frequently, because of the high divorce rate among the lower classes. But on the other hand, as a result of their parents' broken marriage, they undergo a drastic social decline.

The divorced mother, particularly, who usually has custody of the children, has to manage with less money. Even then, if she re-marries, the children do not come out of it well on average.

## ■ SOCIETY

## Press is accused of pandering to prejudice in gypsy-camp row

One day, as nine-year-old Gretel was minding her own business and keeping an eye on the farmyard geese, her eye caught something very strange indeed on the other side of the field at the edge of the forest.

"Some wagons pulled up and out stepped some people. They were dark-haired and their skin was a deep brown colour. Gretel had never before in her short life seen such people, and she felt almost afraid of them."

"It was not long before her suspicions were confirmed. Some of the men approached the flock of geese and took some away before her very eyes. Gretel protested at this injustice but the men grabbed her and bound her arms behind her and threw her into one of the wagons. She found herself among a horde of half-naked children. Then the wagon began to move and Gretel had no way of knowing where they were going to."

Dark-haired, dark-complexioned people with obviously evil intentions: they could only be gypsies. The excerpt comes from a children's book published in the 1920s but its message, that of itinerant groups stealing livestock and posing a danger to any children whom they happened to come across, was common even up to the 1950s.

Obviously, it is a parable that has left its mark: Father Luitpold Weiss, a Catholic priest who works with gypsies in the Ruhr, says he has heard from various parts of Europe stories about gypsy children being sent out to steal. And behind the children are always the shadows of dark men in dark places who whip and threaten the children to carry out their nefarious wishes.

A man had years ago told him about press attitudes to gypsies in France. The stories could have been written yesterday. Nothing had changed.

The theme is old, but the versions are never ending: one is taking place in Cologne. And the local Press is fanning the flames by bringing out all the old stereotypes and, without bothering to check the facts of the matter, printing indiscriminately what suits their purposes.

The story concerns a group of gypsies of Yugoslav origin camping on the site of an airfield outside Cologne which, apart from a strip used by an aero club, has been abandoned.

The gypsy families all came in the last year from France and Italy, where they had been until French and Italian residence laws were tightened up sharply.

A local Social Democratic party branch was "disturbed" that a group comprised "overwhelmingly of criminals" was on the site and demanded their removal.

A minister of religion took up the police version in the best, upright manner, and said in one newspaper that "children are working for men behind the scenes... men who have for years been receiving social security payments and who have luxury villas in other countries and who drive expensive cars."

At one stage, passengers at one railway station were being warned by loudspeaker that they should hold on to their handbags as the station "is teeming with gypsy children trying to steal from passers-by."

Police kept arresting children, who would not say where their parents were, so they were sent to a children's home where they were cared for and then re-

leased. Nothing more could be done, because children under 14 are not liable for prosecution.

The children were from the site at the disused airport. The police reported the events as they saw them. The Press blithely accepted whatever the police said. The talk was of "unscrupulous men behind the scenes, criminalising children"; of "gypsies of Polish origin" being arrested which, as everyone knows, meant "social welfare recipients who drive round in Mercedes cars."

The headlines reported on "The School For Thieves" and how the itinerants had trained the children "like dogs and set them loose in pairs to rob tourists."

A Cologne schoolteacher, Kurt Holl, belongs to a citizens initiative set up to help the gypsies. He says the children steal because of economic need.

He regards the Press as the puppets of the police and says he was shocked at the way local journalists "accepted uncritically even the most adventurous allegations of the police." Neither did the Press forget to mention the children's ethnic background.

The issue became so inflamed that Holl's group accused a special police investigation committee of racism and defamation in such strong terms that police chief Klaus Stilleberg hit back with a legal suit.

The families on the site left Yugoslavia about 20 years ago out of pure economic need to look for something better in Western Europe, and most of them stayed in Italy and France. When the laws were tightened and they decided to come to Germany, some applied for political asylum, others applied for German passports and others who could neither read nor write German just waited on the site.

But no one can live from nothing and so the children, the least likely to be prosecuted, were sent out to steal and Sinne stayed behind.

Efforts were made in the city to find a humanitarian solution, but voices also began to rise in protest. The citizens in-

itiative puts a lot of the blame on the inflammatory way the Press has reported the affair.

The story concerns a group of gypsies of Yugoslav origin camping on the site of an airfield outside Cologne which, apart from a strip used by an aero club, has been abandoned.

The gypsy families all came in the last year from France and Italy, where they had been until French and Italian residence laws were tightened up sharply.

A local Social Democratic party branch was "disturbed" that a group comprised "overwhelmingly of criminals" was on the site and demanded their removal.

A minister of religion took up the police version in the best, upright manner, and said in one newspaper that "children are working for men behind the scenes... men who have for years been receiving social security payments and who have luxury villas in other countries and who drive expensive cars."

At one stage, passengers at one railway station were being warned by loudspeaker that they should hold on to their handbags as the station "is teeming with gypsy children trying to steal from passers-by."

The first time the team workers went to the site, they were affected by the sheer squalor: tired-out mothers, children with rotting teeth caused by bad



Excuse me for living.

(Photo: Manfred Weigel)

diets, youths and young girls living pale and unhealthy despite spending all day out in the fresh air.

If children did not go out to steal many of them would go hungry. It is clear that every child had a final life. Wiegmann, head of the Roma-fit team, said: "Did a priest help the men in the background?" Then followed enough details to make it clear which priest was meant, even though his name was not used.

The issue came to a head when the prosecutors office, exasperated at the never-ending stream of arrests of children they couldn't prosecute, threatened to sue the city of Cologne itself on the grounds of ignoring the children's welfare unless it took some sort of action.

The result: 10 children were locked behind bars in a specially built room in children's home.

"A children's jail," accused father Weiss. The children were released after four days and, when that happened, many of the gypsies quickly packed their belongings and left Cologne.

Suddenly, the city was left almost without any gypsies. But not quite. Some stayed behind.

They perceived a change of attitude both by the city administration caused by both a reaction against what had happened and also the fact that the exodus caused a sharp drop in crime in the Cathedral area.

As the hysteria over the gypsies took on more embarrassing forms, the youth authorities set up an aid team. Workers from eight specialist fields went to work from a headquarters and began helping out.

Of the 40 children they deal with, several are among those arrested several times near the cathedral and some were among those locked in the children's home. But, since the team moved in, there has been hardly any trouble. And when trouble does happen, the police deliver the child into the hands of the team.

The team has developed an atmosphere of trust with the gypsies. Mothers on the site let their children travel together with team workers on the bus to the headquarters in Cologne.

Here the children have showers, eat, sing songs and play. These children had not even learnt to play properly — such a taken-for-granted thing for German children.

The first time the team workers went to the site, they were affected by the sheer squalor: tired-out mothers, children with rotting teeth caused by bad

### Frankfurter Rundschau

initiative puts a lot of the blame on the inflammatory way the Press has reported the affair.

The gypsy families all came in the last year from France and Italy, where they had been until French and Italian residence laws were tightened up sharply.

They had heard of Cologne and that, although not expecting to get work there, believed they would be left alone.

The conditions in the camp first came to light only after a police raid in January, when the winter was particularly vicious.

It was discovered that the families were living at minus 10 degrees in makeshift huts made out of plastic sheeting and bits of wood. There was no running water and no latrines. The only form of heating were heaters formed out of benzene canisters to burn wind.

The reason for the raid was that pickpocketing offences in the Cathedral area of Cologne, which is next to the central railway station, had risen by 180 per cent and burglaries by almost 100 per cent.

Police kept arresting children, who would not say where their parents were, so they were sent to a children's home where they were cared for and then re-

leased. Nothing more could be done, because children under 14 are not liable for prosecution.

This situation was strongly influenced by a case a short while before in Miln in which some Romany gypsies from Yugoslavia had been given long sentences for keeping their children in "slavelike" conditions and forcing them to break the law. People in Cologne had convinced themselves that Miln conditions had been foisted on them.

The headline reported on "The School For Thieves" and how the itinerants had trained the children "like dogs and set them loose in pairs to rob tourists."

A Cologne schoolteacher, Kurt Holl, belongs to a citizens initiative set up to help the gypsies. He says the children steal because of economic need.

He regards the Press as the puppets of the police and says he was shocked at the way local journalists "accepted uncritically even the most adventurous allegations of the police." Neither did the Press forget to mention the children's ethnic background.

The issue became so inflamed that Holl's group accused a special police investigation committee of racism and defamation in such strong terms that police chief Klaus Stilleberg hit back with a legal suit.

The families on the site left Yugoslavia about 20 years ago out of pure economic need to look for something better in Western Europe, and most of them stayed in Italy and France. When the laws were tightened and they decided to come to Germany, some applied for political asylum, others applied for German passports and others who could neither read nor write German just waited on the site.

But no one can live from nothing and so the children, the least likely to be prosecuted, were sent out to steal and Sinne stayed behind.

Efforts were made in the city to find a humanitarian solution, but voices also began to rise in protest. The citizens in-

itiative puts a lot of the blame on the inflammatory way the Press has reported the affair.

The gypsy families all came in the last year from France and Italy, where they had been until French and Italian residence laws were tightened up sharply.

A local Social Democratic party branch was "disturbed" that a group comprised "overwhelmingly of criminals" was on the site and demanded their removal.

A minister of religion took up the police version in the best, upright manner, and said in one newspaper that "children are working for men behind the scenes... men who have for years been receiving social security payments and who have luxury villas in other countries and who drive expensive cars."

At one stage, passengers at one railway station were being warned by loudspeaker that they should hold on to their handbags as the station "is teeming with gypsy children trying to steal from passers-by."

The first time the team workers went to the site, they were affected by the sheer squalor: tired-out mothers, children with rotting teeth caused by bad

diets, youths and young girls living pale and unhealthy despite spending all day out in the fresh air.

If children did not go out to steal many of them would go hungry. It is clear that every child had a final life. Wiegmann, head of the Roma-fit team, said: "Did a priest help the men in the background?" Then followed enough details to make it clear which priest was meant, even though his name was not used.

The issue became so inflamed that Holl's group accused a special police investigation committee of racism and defamation in such strong terms that police chief Klaus Stilleberg hit back with a legal suit.

The families on the site left Yugoslavia about 20 years ago out of pure economic need to look for something better in Western Europe, and most of them stayed in Italy and France. When the laws were tightened and they decided to come to Germany, some applied for political asylum, others applied for German passports and others who could neither read nor write German just waited on the site.

But no one can live from nothing and so the children, the least likely to be prosecuted, were sent out to steal and Sinne stayed behind.

Efforts were made in the city to find a humanitarian solution, but voices also began to rise in protest. The citizens in-

itiative puts a lot of the blame on the inflammatory way the Press has reported the affair.

The gypsy families all came in the last year from France and Italy, where they had been until French and Italian residence laws were tightened up sharply.

A local Social Democratic party branch was "disturbed" that a group comprised "overwhelmingly of criminals" was on the site and demanded their removal.

A minister of religion took up the police version in the best, upright manner, and said in one newspaper that "children are working for men behind the scenes... men who have for years been receiving social security payments and who have luxury villas in other countries and who drive expensive cars."

At one stage, passengers at one railway station were being warned by loudspeaker that they should hold on to their handbags as the station "is teeming with gypsy children trying to steal from passers-by."

The first time the team workers went to the site, they were affected by the sheer squalor: tired-out mothers, children with rotting teeth caused by bad

diets, youths and young girls living pale and unhealthy despite spending all day out in the fresh air.

If children did not go out to steal many of them would go hungry. It is clear that every child had a final life. Wiegmann, head of the Roma-fit team, said: "Did a priest help the men in the background?" Then followed enough details to make it clear which priest was meant, even though his name was not used.

The issue became so inflamed that Holl's group accused a special police investigation committee of racism and defamation in such strong terms that police chief Klaus Stilleberg hit back with a legal suit.

The families on the site left Yugoslavia about 20 years ago out of pure economic need to look for something better in Western Europe, and most of them stayed in Italy and France. When the laws were tightened and they decided to come to Germany, some applied for political asylum, others applied for German passports and others who could neither read nor write German just waited on the site.

But no one can live from nothing and so the children, the least likely to be prosecuted, were sent out to steal and Sinne stayed behind.

Efforts were made in the city to find a humanitarian solution, but voices also began to rise in protest. The citizens in-

itiative puts a lot of the blame on the inflammatory way the Press has reported the affair.

The gypsy families all came in the last year from France and Italy, where they had been until French and Italian residence laws were tightened up sharply.

A local Social Democratic party branch was "disturbed" that a group comprised "overwhelmingly of criminals" was on the site and demanded their removal.

A minister of religion took up the police version in the best, upright manner, and said in one newspaper that "children are working for men behind the scenes... men who have for years been receiving social security payments and who have luxury villas in other countries and who drive expensive cars."

At one stage, passengers at one railway station were being warned by loudspeaker that they should hold on to their handbags as the station "is teeming with gypsy children trying to steal from passers-by."

The first time the team workers went to the site, they were affected by the sheer squalor: tired-out mothers, children with rotting teeth caused by bad

diets, youths and young girls living pale and unhealthy despite spending all day out in the fresh air.

If children did not go out to steal many of them would go hungry. It is clear that every child had a final life. Wiegmann, head of the Roma-fit team, said: "Did a priest help the men in the background?" Then followed enough details to make it clear which priest was meant, even though his name was not used.

The issue became so inflamed that Holl's group accused a special police investigation committee of racism and defamation in such strong terms that police chief Klaus Stilleberg hit back with a legal suit.

The families on the site left Yugoslavia about 20 years ago out of pure economic need to look for something better in Western Europe, and most of them stayed in Italy and France. When the laws were tightened and they decided to come to Germany, some applied for political asylum, others applied for German passports and others who could neither read nor write German just waited on the site.

But no one can live from nothing and so the children, the least likely to be prosecuted, were sent out to steal and Sinne stayed behind.

Efforts were made in the city to find a humanitarian solution, but voices also began to rise in protest. The citizens in-

itiative puts a lot of the blame on the inflammatory way the Press has reported the affair.

The gypsy families all came in the last year from France and Italy, where they had been until French and Italian residence laws were tightened up sharply.

A local Social Democratic party branch was "disturbed" that a group comprised "overwhelmingly of criminals" was on the site and demanded their removal.

A minister of religion took up the police version in the best, upright manner, and said in one newspaper that "children are working for men behind the scenes... men who have for years been receiving social security payments and who have luxury villas in other countries and who drive expensive cars."

At one stage, passengers at one railway station were being warned by loudspeaker that they should hold on to their handbags as the station "is teeming with gypsy children trying to steal from passers-by."

The first time the team workers went to the site, they were affected by the sheer squalor: tired-out mothers, children with rotting teeth caused by bad

diets, youths and young girls living pale and unhealthy despite spending all day out in the fresh air.

If children did not go out to steal many of them would go hungry. It is clear that every child had a final life. Wiegmann, head of the Roma-fit team, said: "Did a priest help the men in the background?" Then followed enough details to make it clear which priest was meant, even though his name was not used.